What the Internet has got going for you

A no-nonsense guide to the Internet

internet magazine BT

Working together

What the Internet has got going for you

BT has got together with Internet Magazine to produce this no-nonsense guide designed to help you to get the most out of the Internet.

Q *How did the dinosaurs become extinct?*
A *The three most common theories are: death by cosmic collision, recurring mass extinction and global temperature changes, courtesy of* ***http://www.execpc.com/~mass/extinction***

Q *Is there a Rowan Atkinson fan club?*
A *Yes and there are newsgroups devoted to the rubbery faced one, try* ***http://www.netlink.co.uk/users/humornet/britcom.html#Bean***

Q *How can I find George's e-mail address?*
A *Check out* ***http://www.bigfoot.co.uk.*** *There are currently over one hundred e-mail Georges.*

You've heard all the hype about the Internet on the TV and in the newspapers but what can it really do for your family and your business? In this no-nonsense guide to the Internet BT has teamed up with Internet Magazine to answer that all-important question – why do I need to be on the Internet?

This booklet takes you through the whole process of getting onto the Internet: from buying the hardware and selecting an Internet Access Provider through to using the Internet to generate business and to help the children with their homework.

The Internet isn't just for techchies, it's an incredibly useful resource for everybody. From a business angle it offers a way for your company to find new customers across the world and to communicate more effectively and cheaply with them. Meanwhile, on a personal level, the Internet offers you and your family a whole new form of entertainment, a cheap way to keep in touch with your friends and family and a mass of information at your fingertips.

BT is committed to giving everyone access to services which help them to communicate more effectively with others. And the Internet is certainly no exception. We hope you find this guide useful and, once you get online, don't forget to send us an e-mail.

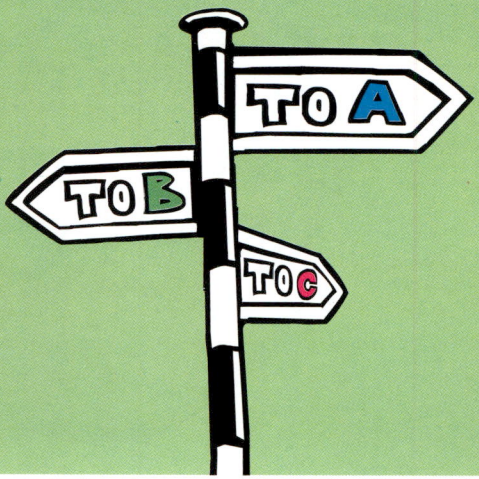
You'll want to keep your phone bills under control while you're online and BT has a couple of schemes that can help:

If you're a Friends & Family customer you can save 10% on all your calls to the Internet by including the number of your Internet Access Provider as one of your ten Friends & Family numbers.

To save a further 15% join BT's PremierLine scheme. If your quarterly call bill is, on average, more than £45 you can save a further 15% on most direct dialled calls. The service costs £6 per quarter.

If you'd like more information on any of the BT products featured in this booklet call us anytime on **Freefone (0800) 102 800**

What we've got going for you



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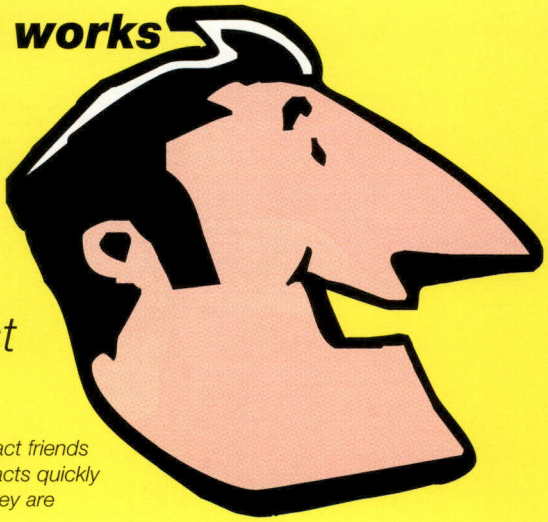
How the Internet works



View video and listen to audio piped from radio stations around the world

Download the latest software

Use e-mail to contact friends and business contacts quickly no matter where they are

The Internet is suddenly everywhere, e-mail addresses are popping up on business cards and you even see World Wide Web (WWW) addresses at the end of TV advertisements (remember ***www.guinness.ie***). You can't ignore the statistics, the latest estimates reveal that there around 50 million people using the Internet with around 1 million new users going online every week. Make no mistake, the Internet is a communications revolution that will profoundly alter the way we work and play.

So that's the hype but let's get down to the facts, what exactly is the Internet? The Internet is not a new phenomenon, it's actually been around for nearly 25 years and grew out of American academic and military networks.

Originally the Internet was designed as a way to link military computers together. The plan was to build a network with many paths, along which data could travel from one site to another – the driving force here was to make the network resilient if any part of it was taken out by a nuclear attack. Remember this was the era of the Cold War!

So we have the US tax payer to thank for this system which, at its simplest, is no more than a collection of computers connected together via the phone lines. But as the Internet grew it began to break up into separate networks, each one owned and funded by a different group of people. These separate networks were able to talk to each other because they spoke the same language, the Internet Protocol (IP).

The most revolutionary thing about the Internet is the fact that it's not really owned by anyone. Although there are advisory boards and standards committees, no one company owns or governs the Internet. Network, computer and telecommunications companies own parts of the network and they maintain and repair their own sections, but nobody owns the whole Internet.

So how did the Internet get to be headline news? After all it had been existing quite happily

Use the Web to browse millions of sites developed by big corporations and home users

Get news, sports and weather information delivered straight to your computer screen

Publish your own Web pages quickly and easily and upload them for the world to see

for twenty years as a government and academic network. The World Wide Web revolutionised the Internet a mere four years ago. The Web transformed this academic and military network into a potentially lucrative commercial mainstream network. Market research company International Data Corp recently revealed that the number of Web users world-wide will hit 35 million this year.

The Web is essentially a collection of files scattered across computers around the world connected to the Internet. These Web pages are marked up in a way which allows you to jump from one page to another page, anywhere on the Internet and can contain graphics, photographs, sound and video.

Most companies have either got a presence on the Web, are in the process of developing one, or are at least evaluating the prospect. There are also thousands of individual Web sites put up by people telling you about themselves or their own interests, huge databases of information, online magazines and sites covering every hobby and sport imaginable.

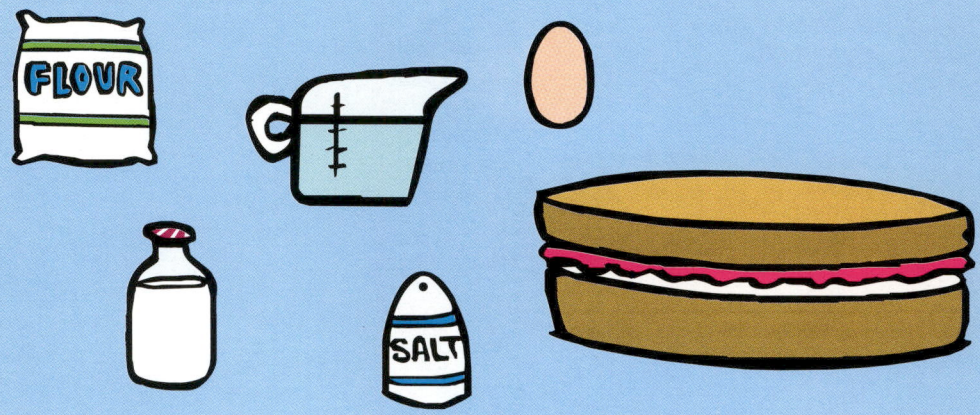
It's relatively easy to learn the HTML language in which Web documents are written and, given a couple of hours, you too could have your own presence on the World Wide Web. Most Internet Access Providers allow you to store your Web site on their machines, so there are no additional costs involved.

It's hard to define the Internet, it supports many different types of services. Electronic mail, for example, allows you to send a message, or a data file, to people in over 230 countries and there are discussion forums covering in excess of 20,000 topics.

And as an information resource the Internet excels. With over two million searchable files and documents the scope of the Internet is enormous.

As a news medium the Internet is also unique – there are thousands of online newspapers which can be updated the second a new story breaks. In short, you can't afford to ignore the Net, read on to find out how to get connected...

How to get up and running



So the Internet sounds like a great place to be but before you can get online you need to invest in the following five items:

- A computer
- A modem
- A telephone connection
- An account with an Internet access provider
- Internet software

Choosing a computer

Let's start with the computer. If you want to experience all the bells and whistles of the Web – film and music clips, animation, video and so on – you'll need a powerful multimedia PC.

Make sure it's based on a fast processor, has a big hard disk (1Gb or more) and at least 16Mb of memory. You'll also need a good graphics and sound card and stereo speakers. You can expect this to set you back around £1,000 (including VAT).

Choosing a modem

You connect to the Internet over the phone network and you need a modem to connect your PC to the telephone line. The modem converts the digital signals your computer produces into analogue data that can be passed down a phone line. The modem can take the form of a card which slots inside your PC or it can be an external box which you plug into the back of your computer.

Modems sell for around £120 (including VAT) and, essentially, the more expensive the modem the faster your connection to the Internet. Our advice is to go for the fastest modem you can afford – 28.8Kbps is currently the norm.

Choosing an Internet Access Provider

Once you've got your hardware it's time to sort out an Internet Access Provider (IAP). You should expect to pay between £10 and £20 per month to an IAP who will provide you with access to the Internet via its network. But with so many IAPs out there (over 200 in the UK) it's a confusing business.

The table at the top of page seven should help. It lists, by market share, the top nine IAPs. You'll also find a list of all the ISPs. For up-to-date information, you should check out Internet Magazine which includes a list of

The table below lists the top nine Internet Access Providers by market share. Alongside this you'll find all the Internet Service Providers in the UK (the ISPs are listed in alphabetical order).

Top IAPs by market share (source Internet Magazine December 96)		*UK Internet Service Providers*	
BT Internet (IAP)	(0800) 800 001	AOL (ISP)	(0800) 279 1234
Demon (IAP)	(0181) 371 1234	CompuServe (ISP)	(0800) 289 378
Direct Connection (IAP)	(0181) 297 2200	Microsoft Network (ISP)	(0345) 002 000
Easynet (IAP)	(0171) 681 4444	UK Online (ISP)	(01749) 333 333
Global Internet (IAP)	(0181) 957 1008		
Netcom (IAP)	(01344) 395 600	***New***	
Prestel Online (IAP)	(0990) 223 300	Line One (ISP)	(0345) 777 464
U-net (IAP)	(01925) 633 144	Virgin Net (ISP)	(0171) 229 7344
UUNet Pipex (IAP)	(0500) 474 739	Which? Online (ISP)	(0645) 830 240

For more information check out The Internet Marketing Hot List at ***http://www.emap.com/internet/hot/league.htm***

UK IAPs every month (available from newsagents on the 24th of the month). To help you on your way yet further, here are a few questions to ask your IAP:

Q: What's the difference between an Internet Access Provider (IAP) and an Internet Service Provider (ISP), such as CompuServe, America Online (AOL) and the Microsoft Network (MSN).

A: ISPs offer their own proprietary content as well as access to the Internet. For example, the online service CompuServe holds a vast amount of business information, which you can't access unless you subscribe to its service, while MSN has its own TV-channel like content.

You pay a premium to subscribe to an ISP compared to an IAP and, as a result, if it's simple Internet access you're after and you don't need these extra services you're better off with an IAP.

Q: How much money do I have to stump up in advance?

A: You will probably have to pay for your first month's access in advance. You may also be charged a start-up fee.

Q: Do I get local call access to the Internet?

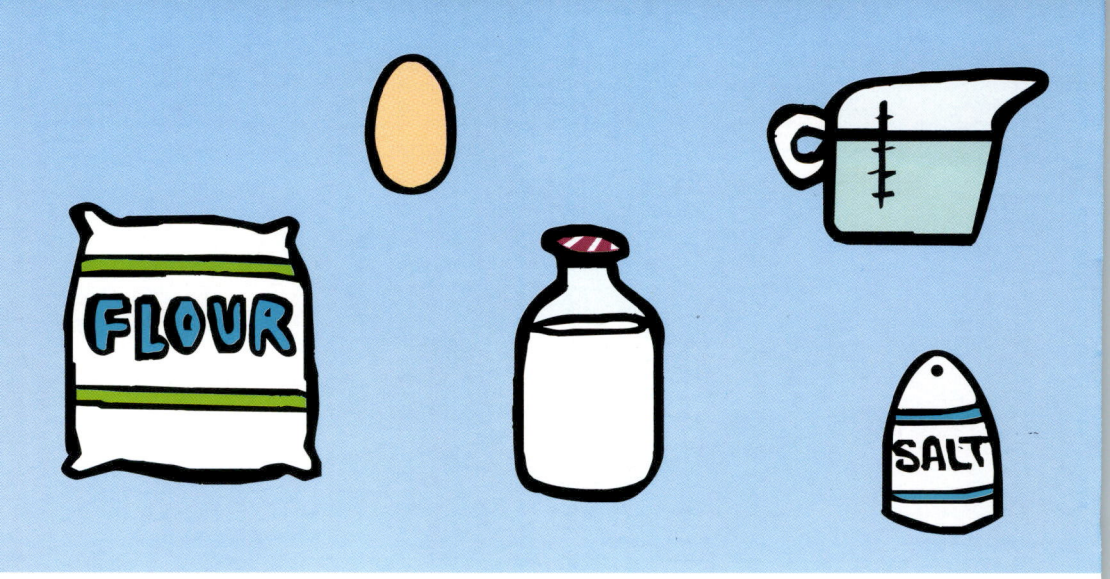
A: Yes, you should only go for a provider if they offer local call access to the Internet. Most providers offer nationwide coverage via a series of virtual points of presence.

Q: What software do I get with the deal?

A: Make sure that the service provider supplies all the software you need to get online (e-mail software and a Web browser are the absolute minimum – see page 16 for more details).

Q: What other services should I expect from my IAP?

A: There are certain added extras that your service provider can throw into the deal. For example, ask your IAP if you get any free Web space to store your Web site and if you get more



than one e-mail address per account (this is handy since it allows members of your family to receive their own private messages).

The phone line
You connect to the Internet via your standard phone line, so normal phone charges apply to your time on the Net.

The minimum BT call charge is 5p (including VAT) which buys you the following amount of Net access time for a local call:

Daytime:	1 minute 15 seconds
Evening:	3 minutes
Weekend:	5 minutes

Daytime is Mon to Fri 8am – 6pm Evenings and night time are Mon to Fri before 8am and after 6pm Weekend is midnight Friday to midnight Sunday.

Most IAPs will give you access to the Internet from a local number or will charge the price of a local call, for example using an 0345 number. Our advice is, if you can't get local call access from your IAP, don't subscribe.

Sharing a phone line
If you're worried about sharing your phone line with your Internet connection BT has a couple of solutions for you here:

There's the Call Minder service which takes messages while you're already on the line, when you're away from home or when you're simply unable to answer the phone. The service costs just £5 per quarter (minimum rental period is 12 months).

Or you could make life simpler still by installing a second phone line to take and make calls while you're using your other line to access the Internet.

The installation of a second line will cost you £116.33 (including VAT). Or you can pay one up-front payment of £25 plus four quarterly payments of £25 (including VAT). Line rental is extra.

Keep track of your time online
It's important to know how long you and your family are online and, luckily, there's software freely available that can help you do this.

How to save 25% on Internet calls

Local call access to the Net

How many e-mail addresses does your IAP give you?

Get free Web space

Get the fastest modem you can afford

These utilities can also be set up to trigger off alarms when your allotted time has run out. One of the best is Craig's Connect Monitor, which you can download from the following address:

http://tucows.cableint.net/softtime.html

Save up to 25% on your Internet calls

Yes we know it sounds a bit sad, but it's worth making the Internet your friend. Specify your Internet phone access number as one of your 10 BT Friends & Family numbers. This will save you 10% on all your calls to the Internet.

Call Freefone (0800) 102 800 for details on how to join the Friends & Family scheme.

If you spend more than £45 per quarter on calls you should also take advantage of BT's PremierLine service which gives you a further 15% off your Friends & Family numbers.

This means that you can reduce the cost of your Internet calls by a total of 25% – that's got to be worth having!

With PremierLine you also get 5% off calls to mobile and premium rate numbers and 15% off any other numbers not included in your Friends & Family numbers, whether they're local, national or international. BT PremierLine costs £6 per quarter.

Call (0800) 102 800 for more information.

Faster access to the Net

For most Web browsing it's fine to connect to the Internet over a standard phone line. But if you want to download pages quickly or watch real-time video then you might want to consider an ISDN connection. ISDN is almost twice as fast as the standard modem connection.

Before you get ISDN fitted you'll need to buy a terminal adapter, the ISDN equivalent of a modem, which will set you back around £300.

For more information about ISDN call BT on (0800) 400 400.

How to make yourself at home

The Internet can make a real difference to your home life. From shopping for your monthly groceries through to planning an evening out, the Internet can help.

One of the most exciting areas of the Net is its extraordinary educational resources. There's a massive library of information out there which your children can use for school projects. Not only are the libraries of universities around the world online but you'll also find that your local school may well have a Web site.

If you're after sites with an educational flavour we recommend you point your browser at the following:

- Internet for Learning
http://www.rmplc.co.uk

This is the major UK education site for schools. Here you'll find general and Internet-related education news alongside a conference area.

- Schools Online
http://www.ultralab.anglia.ac.uk/

This research project investigates how the Internet can be used in education, particularly through the development of online curriculum resources in modern languages and science.

- BBC Education
http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/index.html

Invaluable information about BBC educational broadcasts and resources.

- Yahoo
http://www.yahoo.co.uk

The education section of this search engine is comprehensive and kept up-to-date.

No more supermarket shopping

For many of us the thought of never having to go to the supermarket again is attractive. Online grocery shopping is finally becoming a reality, supermarket chain Tesco is in the process of testing an online grocery shopping service. Using special software customers can access a database of over 20,000 products and place them in their virtual shopping trolley.

Your groceries are then delivered to your door the next day. You can even tell Tesco how ripe you like your bananas to be. A full nationwide service should roll out later this year.

There are a host of other shopping sites waiting to take

your money. BarclaySquare is the longest established commercial shopping site and it pulls together the payment skills of Barclaycard and major high street retailers including BT, Debenhams, Sainsbury's, Toys R Us and Victoria Wine. Push your trolley along to ***http://www.itl.net/shopping/index.html***

No more bank queues

Wouldn't it be great if you never had to waste a lunch hour standing in a bank queue again? Online banking is still in the early stages of development but progress is being made rapidly. TSB has an online banking service available to users of CompuServe while the National Westminster is testing a service which will provide full account management features online.

Both banks allow you to transfer funds, check on the state of your account and pay bills direct from your PC.

Get the latest news

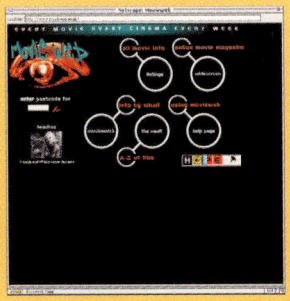
Most of the daily newspapers have Web sites containing the latest news as well as archives of previous articles. The good news is that most of these sites are free – all you're normally asked to do is register. Try out *The Telegraph* at ***http://www.telegraph.co.uk/*** *The Times* at ***http://www.the-times.co.uk/*** and *The Guardian* at ***http://go2.guardian.co.uk/*** For the latest world news it's worth pointing your browser at the CNN and NBC sites at ***http://www.cnn.com/*** and ***http://www.msnbc.com/***

Plan your nights out and in

Whether you're spending a quiet night in front of the TV or are off out to the cinema, theatre or a restaurant, the Internet can help.

Both the BBC and Channel 4 have their own Web sites with information on schedules, e-mail facilities and more detail on programmes. Satellite channel, Sky, also has its own site at ***http://www.sky.co.uk.*** Channel 4 is at ***http://www.channel4.com/*** and you'll find the BBC at ***http://www.bbc.co.uk/*** Alternatively get details on 35 satellite and cable stations from Yearling's Interactive TV Listings guide at ***http://www.yearling.com/***

If you're going further afield you can check out what films are



playing and what restaurants are available in your area by scouring the Net.

For the most up-to-date movie information check out:
http://www.movieweb.co.uk
http://www.yell.co.uk
http://www.eventsonline.co.uk

To book your tickets to the latest Andrew Lloyd Webber extravaganza try out
http://www.whatson.com/stage

And to get the lowdown on restaurants visit
http://www.timeout.co.uk/

Plan your holidays

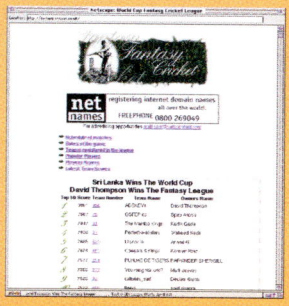
You can use the Internet to search for information on almost any resort you're planning to visit. You can tour virtual cities online and research the attractions you want to take in while you're away.

A smattering of travel agents have their own Web sites including Thomas Cook at ***http://www.thomascook.com*** and Thomson Holidays at ***http://www.thomson-holidays.com*** although most don't allow you to actually book a holiday online yet. Nevertheless, the Web is a useful resource for researching locations. Simply use a search engine (turn to page 20 for more details) and type in the name of the country or city you want to visit and work your way through a wealth of related sites.

Try the Lonely Planet Guidebooks at ***http://www.lonelyplanet.com*** for an honest impression of hotel conditions and visit the UK Directory for a guide to hotels and resorts in the UK
http://www.ukdirectory.co.uk/travel/index.htm

Get sporting information online

The Internet is a wonderful place for sports fans. The mass of up-to-date results and databases of obscure statistics makes the online world a treasure trove of sports information. No matter how obscure the sport you follow there's bound to be something for you. To find exactly what's out there, it's worth checking out the following sites which are both full of links to other sports sites:
http://allsports.questtech.com/nfl/nfl.html
http://www.tns.lcs.mit.edu/cgi-bin/sports/


Fantasy Cricket
net names
registering internet domain names all over the world
FREEPHONE 0800 269049
Sri Lanka Wins The World Cup
David Thompson Wins The Fantasy League

Find out what's on at the local cinema

Get all the sports news you could ever want

Plan your holidays

Book a restaurant

The Net has its fair share of fantasy sports too. Check out the home of fantasy cricket at ***http://fantasy.cricket.co.uk*** or try the Daily Mail's SoccerNet site which runs the Dream League game at ***http://www.dreamleague.com/football/daily_mail/***

E-mail your family

Save on the cost of postage and e-mail your friends and relatives. You can include sound files of your family and even post a video clip of your first born to granny in Outer Mongolia.

If you know somebody's online but are not sure of their e-mail address try searching for them in Bigfoot, a cyber phone book for the Internet at ***http://www.bigfoot.co.uk***

Make sure your children have a safe time online

There's a mass of educational and fun information on the Net for your family but the first thing you have to do is make sure the online world is a safe one for your children.

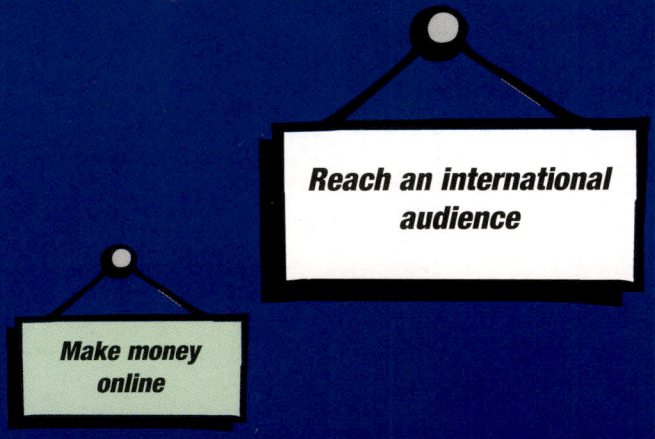
There have been many scare stories about the dangers of the Net for children, but the good news is there are things you can do to make the Internet a safe place. As ever, the best way to ensure your children are safe is to supervise their time online however censorship software can also help you here.

Censorship software blocks access to the type of information you don't want your children to see. Products such as CyberPatrol (you can download a free version from ***http://www.microsys.com/cyber***) use a list of banned keywords to censor sites and allow you to add your own banned words.

The Internet industry is also taking a stand against pornography. A new rating system is being introduced which works in much the same way as the movie rating system. Called PICS (Platform for Internet Content Selection), the system allows either Web site administrators or third-parties to rate sites.

If you still have concerns about the content of the Internet call the Parents Information Network on (0181) 248 4666.

How to get down to business



Many businesses are now using the World Wide Web as a marketing and selling tool. Set up a Web site for your business and as well as telling customers about your wares you could actually be handling financial transactions online. And the beauty is, on the Internet everybody is equal. Although the big boys like Sony, Microsoft, Disney all have their own sites, the big growth of the Web has come from small commercial sites which have realised that the Internet is a way to save money today and to make money really soon.

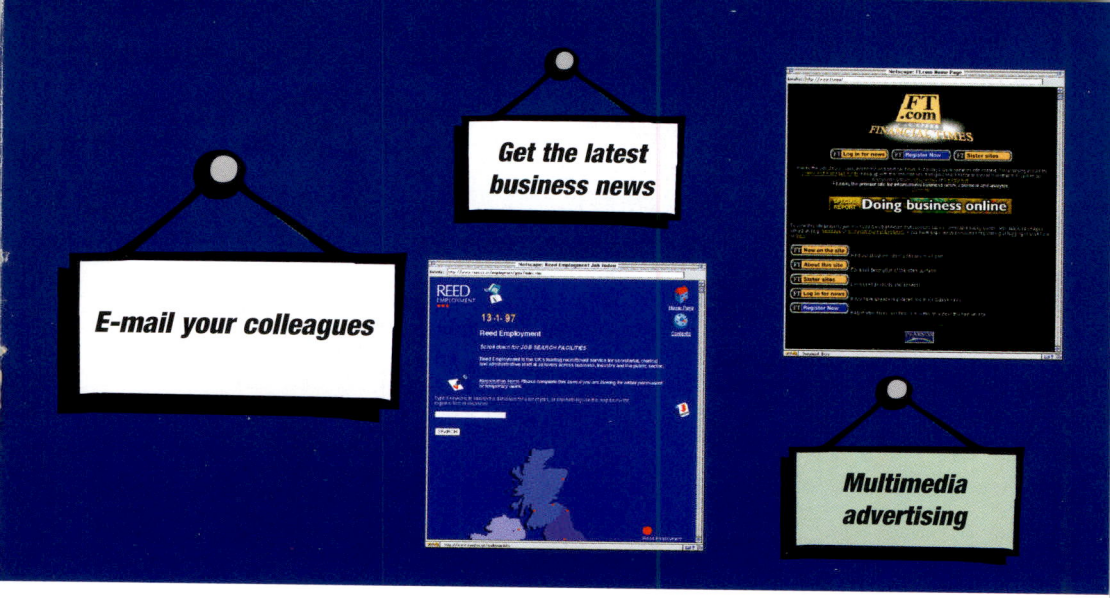
You can use the Internet to get your business known internationally and expand your customer base without having to invest thousands in setting up a shop front in your local high street. Marketing costs can be kept down. Imagine, instead of printing flashy brochures and spending a fortune mailing them out to your customers, you can use the Web to display exciting full-colour, multimedia advertising to an international audience.

A good example of a business well suited to the Web is estate agencies. Wouldn't you rather browse around a virtual estate agent than trek down the high street braving the hard sell from the salesmen? With an online database of properties all you need do is choose the area you want to live in, type in your budget and search. Internet Properties currently offers this kind of service. To find out how it works check out ***http://www.netproperty.com***

E-mail rather than the post

E-mail is a way of sending messages to other people on the Internet and it really is a glorious technology for businesses, as it transcends time zones and international boundaries.

The other person doesn't have to be there to get the message and the glory of e-mail addressing means the recipient could have moved, or be logging on to the mailbox from anywhere in the world, and your message will still reach them. What's more, that message usually takes just a couple of hours to travel around the world.



You can even use the Net as a fax machine. JFAX is an interesting service which allows you to have faxes and voice messages forwarded to your e-mail mail box as either text or sound files which you can then hear, view or print. For more information on the service go to ***http://www.jfax.co.uk***

Do your recruitment online

Finding a job or recruiting a new employee is a tedious and often long-winded process, but the Internet can really help here. Already there are a batch of online databases which store details of the latest jobs or store electronic CVs from those after work.

Reed Employment is one of the biggest UK job agencies at: ***http://www.reed.co.uk/employment/*** or check out PeopleBank at: ***http://www.peoplebank.com***

Business resources

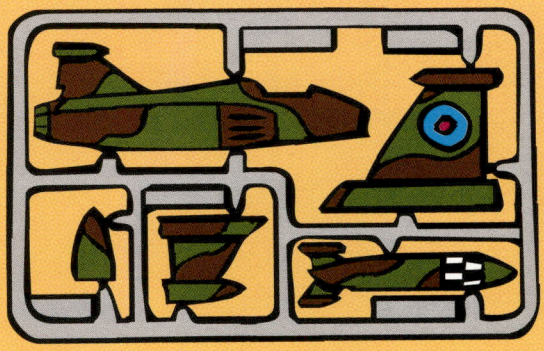
As well as putting your own site online you'll also find a mass of business information online. A good place to start is to search through business Web sites using one of the Internet Directories such as What's New on the Internet at ***http://www.whatsnew.com*** or Yahoo at ***http://www.yahoo.co.uk***

Another worthy site for those running their own business or working from home is the online version of the impressive home worker magazine, *Home Run* at ***http://homerun.co.uk/***

For the latest business news try out *The Financial Times* Web site at ***http://www.ft.com/*** and the online version of *Business Week* at ***http://www.businessweek.com/***

America's leading financial newspaper, *The Wall Street Journal*, is also online at ***http://wsj.com*** and contains the complete content of all three international editions of the paper. Stock information and access to the Dow Jones database of articles are also available.

How to get on with it



Browse the Web with Navigator and Explorer

The great thing about the Internet is that most of the software you need is free, or at least free to use for a trial period. All you need do is visit the appropriate site and copy the software to your own hard disk (or download it as it's known in Internet-speak). Listed below, you'll find details on the applications that make up the Internet along with information on where to get hold of the appropriate software.

Web browsers

The World Wide Web is the core of the Internet and you need a browser to check out Web sites. Although there are now over thirty browsers, most do the same thing – they allow you to enter Web addresses (or Universal Resource Locators, URLs), they have a set of buttons and menus to send you back and forth through your cruise around the Internet and they have a window where you read the Web pages. To get around the Web you either type in a Web address or mouse-click on a link within a Web page.

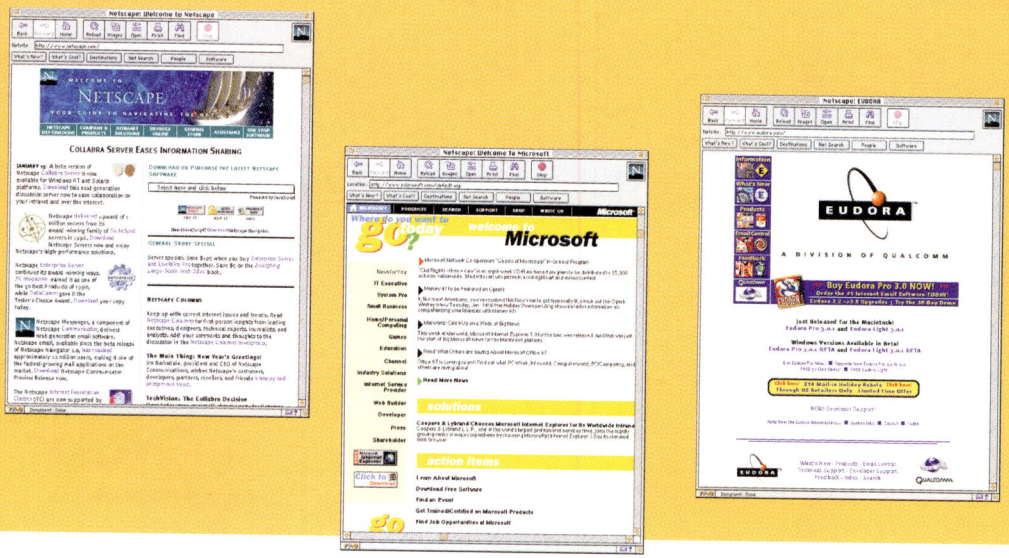
There are two big names in the browser market – Netscape Communications with its Navigator product and Microsoft with Internet Explorer. Both browsers boast a similar set of features but Internet Explorer is gaining ground rapidly, not least because it's free.

Although you'll have got a browser with your subscription to an IAP, it's worth checking the sites below to make sure you've got the latest version of the product:
Download Navigator from
http://www.netscape.com
Download Explorer from
http://www.microsoft.com/ie/

E-mail

According to a recent estimate 400 million e-mail messages are sent over the Internet each day. So it will come as no surprise to hear that e-mail is the most popular application on the Net. But with 35 million people on the Internet, how do you find the person, or company, you're looking for?

The Internet has a well-established naming system with every host computer and network having its own name. Below that every user has their



own individual address.

The naming system works like this – there are several parts to a name and these parts are separated by dots. The last part of the name usually identifies either the country or the type of organisation. For example, an address ending in .co.uk indicates that it's a company in the UK. The remainder of the address usually gives the name of the organisation.

So the e-mail address ***gailrobinson@genius.com*** reveals that the user is Gail Robinson and she's connected to the Internet via the Genius Internet service and the .com indicates that Genius is a commercial service

The latest versions of the Web browsers, Navigator and Explorer, have e-mail features built-in although there are also a variety of dedicated e-mail packages.

The absolute minimum you should expect from your e-mail software is:

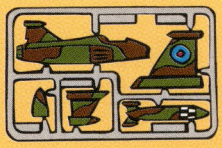
- Offline working, so you can compose your messages before connecting to the Internet.
- Filtering and filing systems which allow you to store messages in separate folders.
- Address books to store your e-mail addresses.
- You should also make sure that your e-mail software can handle attachments – these could be a picture, audio or video clips, for example. Most e-mail software supports Multimedia Internet Mail Extensions (MIME) which allows two MIME-compliant e-mail packages to send and receive almost any type of file.

If you're finding that the e-mail software that comes with Explorer or Navigator is too restrictive, check out the following dedicated e-mail packages.

Eudora Light at ***http://www.qualcomm.com*** and Pegasus Mail at ***http://www.pegasus.usa.com/***

Newsgroups

Newsgroups were the driving force behind the Internet and they're based on a simple concept. Newsgroups consist of members with a common



Share your hobby – join a newsgroup

E-mail messages around the world

Make friends over the Net with IRC

interest – this could be anything from tadpoles to titanium mining. Members send messages to the newsgroup and this message is distributed amongst all its members.There's no entry fee for joining a newsgroup and you can sign up for any one of the 20,000 which are currently active.

As soon as you join any newsgroup you should check out the new users section to get help on how to get involved in the group. The topics of the newsgroups are structured into seven categories:

comp – computer-related topics
misc – miscellaneous topics
news – Internet news and related topics
rec – recreational topics, such as sports, music and hobbies
sci – scientific and medical topics
soc – all manner of social topics
talk – more general discussions and often heated and lively debates!

There are also other categories such as alt (newly created groups) and biz (groups covering business related topics).

Most newsgroups are unmoderated and people can – and all too often do – write anything they like. For this reason, we recommend that parents exercise great caution if their children are using newsgroups unsupervised. Similarly, there are newsgroups on topics which can be disturbing to some people. If you're worried visit only the moderated groups, the moderator will ensure that any articles which do not adhere to the group's rules are removed.

To access newsgroups you'll need the appropriate software. The best shareware newsreader is Forte's FreeAgent, which you'll find at
http://www.forteinc.com/agent/index.htm

Downloading the latest software

There are millions of files stored on the Internet many of which could be of use to you – updated drivers for your computer, recipes and news articles for example.

A year or so ago you would have

Download the latest software

400 million e-mail messages are sent over the Internet each day

Chat over the Internet

needed a special piece of software to download files now it can be done from within your Web browser. Just click on the file you want to download and it'll come whizzing down the phone line and onto your hard disk (be warned though a big file can take quite a while to download).

It's also worth noting that you can download viruses along with the software. Viruses are nasty bits of code which can create havoc on your computer. The first thing you should do before running a piece of software you've just downloaded is install an anti-virus package on your computer.

Internet chat

Internet Relay Chat (IRC) is one of the least understood areas of the Net but it can be totally fascinating. Essentially, it's a live typed-in conversation which takes place between up to two hundred people.

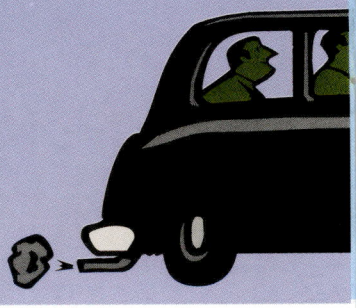
IRC is a small number of separate networks on the Internet. These networks are, in turn, composed of a large number of IRC computers, or servers, around the world. To take part you have to connect to any one of these servers with special IRC software. Once you're connected to a server, you ask for a list of channels. Each channel has a name and most have a subject line describing what's being discussed. Click on the channel of your choice and you're away.

Any event of world-wide significance is on IRC. For example, during the Gulf War, Israelis were exchanging the latest news as it happened with Americans over IRC.

For more details on IRC why not check out the Chats page which you'll find at **http://www.2meta.com/chats/**

Because chat channels are not moderated, inevitably some personal conversations can get out of control. For this reason, we recommend that parents exercise great caution about their children using these lines unsupervised. To be safe, don't reveal any personal information such as your address or telephone number during your conversation.

How to get around



The Internet can be a vast and confusing place for the uninitiated but worry not, follow our quick tour around these essential Web sites and you'll soon be surfing like a pro.

Search engines
Because the Internet is so huge the biggest problem is finding the information you're looking for and this is where search engines come in, they're like huge computerised phone directories. They crawl around the Net looking for new sites to add to their huge databases.

So if you want to find all the Web sites relating to hydrangeas, for example, you'd visit the site of one of the many search engines, enter the word hydrangea and see how many relevant sites you get back.

Listed below you'll find details on the top search engines.

Alta Vista
http://www.altavista.digital.com
One of the fastest and most powerful search engines covering over half of the Internet's Web pages. On the downside, the searches can be complex to set up and you can get thousands of responses.

DejaNews
http://www.dejanews.com
Searches through the content of newsgroups.

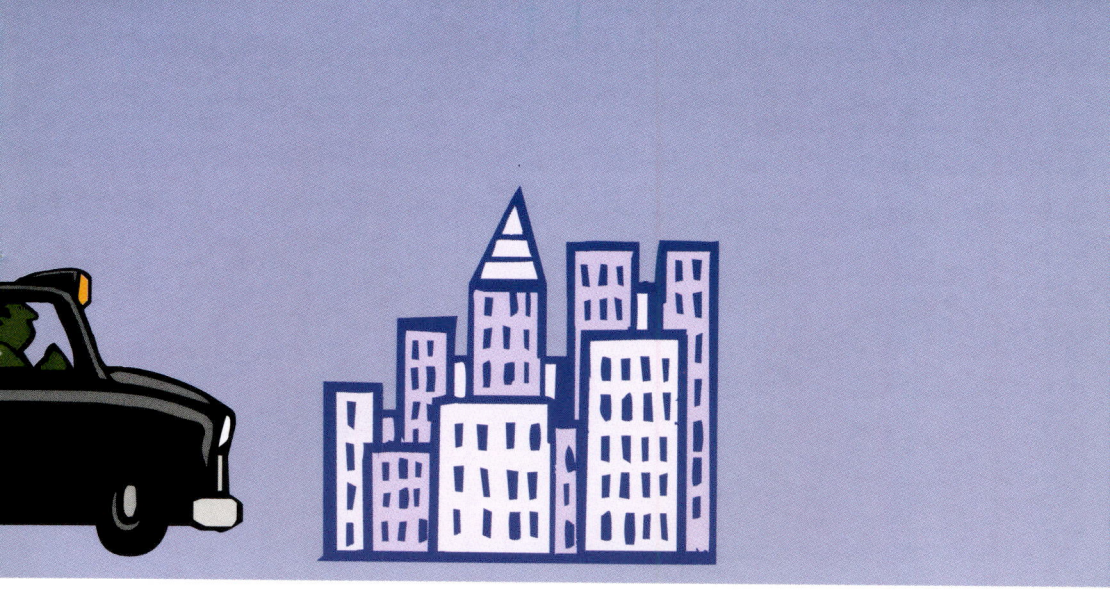
HotBot
http://www.hotbot.com
Claims to scan seven million Web pages a day and has an impressive array of search options in its armoury

Infoseek
http://www.infoseek.com
The engine to use when you're really digging into a subject.

Lycos
http://www.lycos.com
One of the Net's first search tools, a good solid service.

What's New on the Internet
http://www.whatsnew.com
Updated seven days a week this site is a comprehensive guide to new Web sites. Includes an extensive list of UK-specific sites.

Yahoo
http://www.yahoo.co.uk



One of the Net's most popular search directories which specialises in the more eccentric and entertaining aspects of the Web and breaks down the Web into a series of categories.

Yell
http://www.yell.co.uk
Yellow Pages for the Web complete with an excellent Film Finder and an A to Z of business sites.

The best software sites
To get hold of the latest software, no matter what the application, you should visit the following sites for the best and most up-to-date downloads.

Shareware.com
http://www.shareware.com
This site from Cnet lists most of the shareware currently available and is fully searchable with hundreds of download sites listed.

Tucows
http://tucows.cableinet.net/
Tucows lists all of the Windows-based Internet software you could ever want along with reviews and ratings.

What's cool and what's not
For up-to-date information on new Web sites check out the Cool Site of the Day site at
http://cool.infi.net./
You should also try Geek Site of the Day at
http://www.owlnet.rice.edu/~indigo.gstod/index.html

Essential downloads
And finally, a selection of software you really must have to take advantage of all the bells and whistles of the Web.

To get the best sound on the Web download a copy of RealAudio at
http://www.realaudio.com

To put the multi into multimedia download a copy of QuickTime, from
http://quicktime.apple.com

To get the most out of Shockwave'd sites download the program from
http://www.macromedia.com

How to get on with others

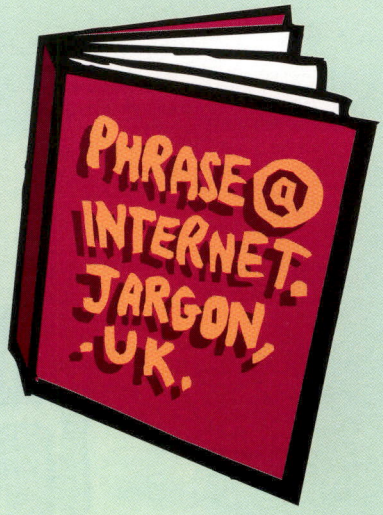
Browser

Downloads

Backbones

Domain names

World Wide Web



Like most technology, the Internet is full of buzz words and jargon. Listed below you'll find the most common Net words along with their plain English explanations.

Backbones – the central network infrastructure of the Internet is often referred to as the backbone and it allows data to travel from one network to another.

Bandwidth – a term used to describe how much data you can send through a connection to the Net.

Baud rate – the speed of a modem measured in bits per second. 33.6Kbps is the current fastest speed.

Browser – a program which allows your computer to download and display documents from the World Wide Web. The two most popular browsers are Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator.

Dial-up – using telephone lines or ISDN networks to connect your computer to the Internet.

Domain – part of the Internet address that specifies your computer's location in the world. The address is written as a series of names separated by full stops. For example, the domain name at Internet Magazine is ***computing.emap.co.uk***. This shows that Internet Magazine is in the computing section of EMAP which is a company in the UK. Listed below are some of the most common top level domains:

.ac.uk	academic and research
.com	commercial (US)
.co.uk	UK company
.edu	education (US)
.gov	public bodies
.mod	Ministry of Defence
.net	network resource

Download – the process of taking information stored on the Internet and copying it to your computer's hard disk. You'll usually find yourself downloading the latest shareware.

E-mail address – the unique address within the Internet which allows people to send mail to you. Your e-mail address is made up of your name, the @

Spam

Java

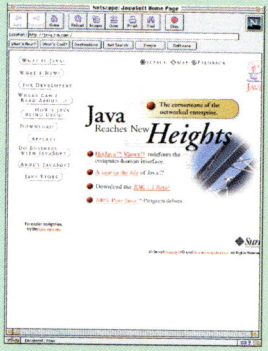
Flame

FAQs

Netiquette

intranet

home page



symbol and your domain name. So the address ***gailrobinson@genius.com*** is the address for the user Gail Robinson at the Genius Internet domain.

FAQs – FAQs are files stored on the Net which store the answers to Frequently Asked Questions. If you're stuck check the FAQs first before you ask you own question.

Flame – an inflammatory e-mail usually directed against the poster of a message.

Home page – the opening page of a Web site.

HTML – HyperText Mark-up Language is the language used to create Web documents.

HTTP – Hypertext Transfer Protocol – the standard way of transferring HTML documents between Web servers and browsers.

Intranet – an intranet uses Internet protocols and applications over an internal company network.

Java – a computer language developed by Sun which allows you to write software which works on a wide range of computers. Java is currently the programming language of choice on the Internet and it allows tiny programs to be created and sent over the network. More information is available at ***http://java.sun.com***

Modem – MOdulator/DEModulator, a gizmo which translates the digital information your computer produces into analogue signals that can be sent down the phone lines.

Netiquette – the etiquette of using the Internet. To avoid breaching Netiquette make sure that you investigate any FAQs or new user sections of newsgroups and don't send irrelevant e-mail.

Newsgroups – These are the bulletin boards of the Internet. There are around 20,000 groups covering every subject under the sun. Most IAPs have a newsgroup server which periodically takes all new messages from a newsgroup feed and adds the messages which have been posted by its

Plug-in

Server

Shareware

Uniform Resource Locator

Transmission Control Protocol

applications

messages

HTML documents

own users. To access the newsgroups stored on your IAP's newsgroup server you need a newsreader program.

POP – Point of Presence – a local Internet access point set up by an access provider to reduce the cost of telephone charges for people dialling in.

Plug-in – add-ons for Web browsers. Plug-ins add features such as the display of video clips or the playback of sound.

Server – a central computer which makes services and data available.

Shareware – most Internet applications are shareware, software you can test out for a certain amount of time (usually a month) before you spend your money on it. If you want to continue to use the software you should register it with the author.

Spam – slang for posting the same message to multiple newsgroups – frowned at on the Internet.

TCP – Transmission Control Protocol – the big daddie of Internet Protocols. TCP takes the information to be transmitted by the application and passes it to the IP (Internet Protocol) to be transmitted. IP is responsible for getting a packet of information from one host to another, while TCP is responsible for making sure messages get from one host to another and that the messages are understood.

URL – A Uniform Resource Locator is basically the address of any resource on the Internet. You type in the URL in your browser and you're whizzed off to the appropriate site.

WWW – World Wide Web – also known as the Web – this is the generic name given to all of the hypertext-based HTML documents on the Internet.

These documents have links to each other and are accessible from HTTP or Web Servers. The WWW has been the 'killer application' which has driven the Net's popularity.

Where to go from here...

If you want a taster of the Internet why not take a trip down to your local Cyber Café. Listed below you'll find details of Cyber Cafés, bars and libraries offering Net access. And of course you can get all the Internet information you need every month from Internet Magazine (available on the 24th of the month from all good newsagents). Turn over the page for details on how to subscribe to Internet Magazine.

Ayr
Carnegie Library,
12 Main St
(01292) 618 492

Belfast
Bytes
Morglen Gardens, Turf Lodge
(01232) 749 955

Revelations
27 Shaftesbury Square
(01232) 320 337

Birmingham
Café Surf
The Arcadian, Hurst St
(0121) 622 4010

Sputnik
Temple St
(0121) 643 0426

Bradford
Spiderz Web
60 Carlisle Road
(01274) 223 300

Brighton
Cybar
9 -12 Middle St
(01273) 707 900

Bristol
NetGates
51 Broad St
(0117) 907 4000

Cambridge
Scales Internet Bar
4 Kings St
(01223) 505 015

Cardiff
Cardiff Cybercafé
9 Duke St
(01222) 235 757

Croydon
Cyberzone
1 Dingwall Road
(0181) 681 6500

Derby
Internet in Derby Café
3 Barlington Lane
(01332) 365 015

Dublin
Planet Web
3 The Cobblers
Essex St East
(00353) 1 677 2727

Cyberia
Arthouse Multimedia
Curved St
(00353) 1 679 7607

Edinburgh
Cyberia
88 Hanover St
(0131) 220 4403

Entertainment World
138 Lothian Rd
(0131) 229 5533

Glasgow
Internet Link Café
239 North St
(0141) 221 8447

Hands On Internet Café
107 West George St
(0141) 248 6800

Guildford
CaféNet
2-3 Phoenix Court
(01483) 451 945

Hull
Net 21
15 Savile St
(01482) 322 488

Leeds
@the café
6-8 Chapel Place, Headingley
(0113) 294 4270

Leicester
Environ
The Ark, 2-4 St Martins Sq
(0116) 233 9660

Liverpool
Café Internet
28 North John St
(0151) 255 1112

London
Biblio@Tech
631 Fulham Road
(0171) 460 4343

Café Internet
22 Buckingham Palace Rd
(0171) 233 5786

Cyberia
39 Whitfield St
(0171) 209 0982

Hands on Internet Café
5 Old Brompton Road
(0171) 581 3399

The Interc@fé
23 - 25 Great Portland St
(0171) 631 -0063

Manchester
Cyberia
12 Oxford St
(0161) 236 6300

Kaleida
448 Wilmslow Rd
(0161) 291 1525

Newcastle
Internet Suite
Orbit 3, Games Park
(0191) 232 5377

Northampton
Leisure Video
21 High Street,Thrapston
(01832) 735 202

Nottingham
Cyberpub
5 Victoria Centre
(0115) 947 5394

Oxford
The Internet Centre
193 Cowley Rd
(01865) 295 066

Preston
The Cybercentre
16 Moor Lane
(01772) 888 188

Reading
Reality Bites
95 Kings Rd
(01734) 462 175

Sheffield
Punters
111 Arundel St
(0114) 276 2668

Southampton
Cyberscone
75 Bedford Place
(01703) 635 429

Stockport
The Net
Maestro House
(0161) 439 0610

Swansea
Cyber Stop
Portland St
(01792) 465 050

Torquay
Cyberpoint
238 Union St Torre
(01803) 297 675

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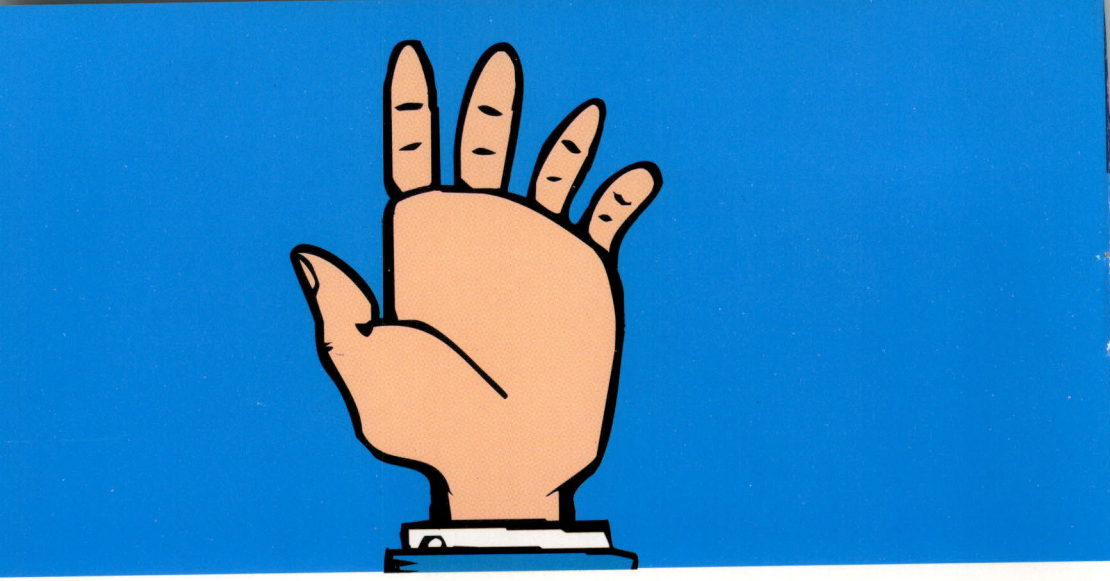
2 Visit our Web site and subscribe online. Just point your browser at ***http://www.emap.com/internet/sub/***



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